



ANNUAL + REPORT

On the Health of the Borough of Ilkeston, for 1897,

BY

J. GEORGE WILLIS,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Ilkeston.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Third Annual Report.

The Borough of Ilkeston comprises an area of 2,526 acres, its population at the 1891 census was 19,744, the number of inhabited houses were 3,776, with an average of 5·3 persons to each house. The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1897 was 5,020, an increase of 1,244. Assuming that the average number of persons per house has been maintained since the last census, it would give us an approximate population of 26,000, but if we put the average at five persons per house, which was the average for England in 1891, it give us roughly the very respectable population of 25,000—and personal observation leads one to believe that we are not over estimating the house average. With an area of 2,526 acres, this gives us an average density of 9·8 per acre.

Births.—There have been 891 births registered during the year 1897—of these 453 were boys and 438 were girls. On the estimated population, this gives us a birth rate of 35·6.

Deaths.—There have been 377 deaths registered during the year—of these 199 were males and 178 female. On the estimated population we get the low death rate of 15·08.

The so-called Zymotic death rate—*i.e.*, the death rate from the seven principal Zymotic diseases—Small-pox, Scarlet Fever, Measles, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Diarrhœa, & “Fever” (Typhus, Simple, Continued, and Enteric), amounted to 2·6. This is rather in excess of late years, but is mainly attributable to the 27 deaths that occurred from Measles in the early part of the year. The following is a classification of the causes of death :—

Enteric Fever	13	} Zymotic.
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	3
Membranous Croup	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	3
Measles...	...	...	...	27
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	9
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	9
Phthisis	18	
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	2
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy	...	...	...	54
Heart Disease	...	...	...	24
All other causes	221	

There have been sixteen inquests held during the year.

The following shows the age-period at which death took place :—

Under 1 year	132	} Under 5, 210.
1 and under 5	...	...	...	78
5 „ 15	...	...	...	15
15 „ 25	...	...	...	24
25 „ 65	...	...	...	75
65 and upwards	53	

Infantile Mortality.—It is very satisfactory to note the great reduction in the infantile mortality, reaching only 148·1 per 1,000, as compared with 195·2 in 1896, and 199·4 in 1895, notwithstanding the large number of infants who died from measles in the early part of the year. Our infant mortality now compares very favourably with that of any town in the Midlands, and is considerably less than many of them. This sudden reduction proves in a great measure that our heretofore large infantile mortality was largely due to imperfect and improper dieting of infants by ignorant and inexperienced mothers; and, when steps were taken to educate these mothers by giving them practical information in the form of Diet Charts, which were distributed over the borough eighteen months ago, there was a sudden and decided fall in the infantile mortality.

Zymotic Disease.—During the year I received 119 notifications of Zymotic disease. They are as follows :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	8
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	22
Membranous Croup	...	...	...	...	...	1
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	69
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	5
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	14

Scarlet Fever.—Only eight cases of this disease were notified during the year. This is the lowest number for many years past. There were no deaths. There were thirty-seven cases reported in 1896, and 58 in the last six months of 1895.

The cases were distributed as follows :—

North Ward	...	...	...	...	...	1
Central Ward	...	...	...	...	...	3
South Ward	...	...	...	...	...	4

Diphtheria.—There were twenty-two cases reported, which must have been of a very mild character, as only three deaths resulted, this being an unusually low mortality for Diphtheria.

South Ward, 13—including 1 in Hallam Fields; Central, 9.

No cases were reported in the North Ward.

Measles.—The extensive outbreak of this disease which occurred in the last quarter of 1896, continued into the early part of 1897. This wave of disease was a continuation of that which scourged Heanor and Langley Mill, entering our Borough at the northern extremity, and sweeping slowly over the town, retired at the southern end, robbing us of no less than 47 of our little ones, viz., 20 in the last quarter of 1896, and 27 in the early part of 1897. The majority of the deaths were caused by chest complications, the weather being severe and variable at the time of the outbreak. The Schools were closed, both Sunday and Day Schools.

Typhoid Fever.—Of this disease 69 cases were reported for the year, as against 80 in 1896. The cases were distributed through the borough as follows :—

North Ward	...	...	...	...	...	13
Central „	...	...	...	...	...	29
South „ (including 3 in Hallam Fields)	...	...	...	...	...	27

Although there was a reduction in the number of cases reported compared with 1896, we still have considerably more than we ought to have, and should cause us a certain amount of anxiety. Cases kept cropping up right through the year. There were no alarming outbursts, such as one would expect to find if the water supply were contaminated, but a steady, persistent succession of cases. In only six

cases could I positively say that they were imported. Thirteen of the cases proved fatal ; or a mortality of roughly one in five. The 69 cases occurred in 47 houses, as many as five cases being affected in one house, through infection from the first case.

Cause of Outbreak.—When one considers the behaviour of the outbreak, I think it seems fairly reasonable to assume that the water supply cannot be held responsible. There were no widespread and sudden outbursts, as one finds under such conditions. Nor can I associate the milk supply with the origin of the outbreak, as investigation proved. I ascribe these outbreaks chiefly to a pollution of the soil for years past from our old and reprehensible system of privy middens. The typhoid discharges were allowed to be emptied into these old-fashioned middens, which were only emptied when absolutely necessary—months in many cases being allowed to expire. During this time the Typhoid Bacilli would be developing in enormous numbers, and, when the privy came to be emptied, would be scattered in all directions. The vitality of the Typhoid Bacilli is well known. Although they may be dormant for a season, will, when favourable circumstances present themselves, burst forth with their old vigour.

Precautions taken.—A sytem of pails was introduced, and on the notification of a case of Typhoid Fever the Sanitary Inspector immediately sent a pail and disinfectants to the house ; all the discharges are disinfected and emptied into the pail, which is taken away every night and the contents destroyed. Cards with instructions and precautionary measures to be adopted, were circulated throughout the Borough.

I would urge upon the Council the great sanitary necessity of procuring a destructor, as our means of disposing of refuse is far from being satisfactory.

Thirty cases have been admitted to the Sanitorium during the year :—27 of Enteric Fever and three of Scarlet Fever. There were six deaths from Enteric Fever, a much larger mortality than usual, but this was owing to the fact that some of the cases were admitted in an extreme condition, and died almost immediately.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

J. GEORGE WILLIS.



Summary of Sanitary Work

DONE IN THE

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES' DEPARTMENT

During the Year 1897, in the Derbyshire portion of the

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF ILKESTON.

				Inspections and Observations made.	Informal Notices served by Inspector.	Legal Notices by Authority.	Nuisances Abated after Notice.
Dwelling Houses and Schools.	{ Foul Conditions	...	...	38	19	19	19
	{ Structural Defects	...	...	294	55	147	147
	{ Overcrowding ...	...	...	14	7	7	7
	{ Unfit for Habitation	...	...	6	3	3	3
	Lodging Houses	...	...	26	1	1	1
	Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	24	—	—	—
	Cow Sheds ...	...	...	27	—	—	—
	Bakehouses ...	...	...	66	—	—	—
	Slaughter-houses	...	...	60	9	8	9
	Canal Boats ...	...	...	73	—	3	3
	Ashpits and Privies	...	...	4600	—	65	65
	Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...	...	25	—	15	15
House Drainage	{ Water Closets...	...	...	24	—	12	12
	{ Defective Traps	...	...	426	69	240	240
	{ No Disconnection	...	...	18	6	6	6
	Pigsties ...	...	...	54	18	18	18
	Animals improperly kept	...	...	8	—	4	4
	Smoke Nuisances	...	...	12	—	6	6
				5795	187	554	555

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding Stoved	...	...	...	42
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	...	...	42
Schools...	...	...	...	12
Prosecution for Slaughter-house	...	...	...	1
Conviction	„	„	finned ten shillings and costs	1

T. EVANS.